

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 095583

14

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CPR-02 SCI-06 NASA-04 USIA-12 PRS-01

PA-03 DODE-00 RSC-01 /048 R

DRAFTED BY AF/ C: MLCOOK: LS

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APPROVED BY AF/ C: HJCOHEN

S/ CPR - MR. WHITEHEAD

----- 106404

R 181830 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 095583

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, PFOR, CT

SUBJ: ASTRONAUT VISITS

REF: BANGUI 582

1. DEPT DOES NOT ANTICIPATE ANY PROBLEM IN COINCIDENCE OF TWO ASTRONAUT PROGRAMS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. VISIT TO CAR, CHAD AND ZAIRE IS UNDER AUSPICES OF PEOPLE- TO- PEOPLE SPORTS PROGRAM AND AT THEIR EXPENSE. IN VIEW OF ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPATION OF GOVERNMENTS AND CHIEFS OF STATE IN PLANNING PROGRAM FOR THREE COUNTRIES OVER PAST FEW MONTHS, PRIVATE VISIT SHOULD IN FACT EXTEND PUBLIC RELATIONS BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM APOLLO 17 VISIT TO THESE COUNTRIES IN ADDITION TO THOSE SCHEDULED FOR OFFICIAL VISIT. APOLLO 17 VISIT OF ASTRONAUTS TO SENEGAL, NIGER, IVORY COAST, NIGERIA, CAMEROON SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 6-14 SHOULD BE ANNOUNCED MAY 18.

2. SINCE APOLLO 17 VISIT IS OFFICIAL USG PROJECT, AND PEOPLE- TO- PEOPLE TRIP IS UNDER PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP, USG MEDIA TREATMENT WILL NATURALLY GIVE PREFERENCE TO APOLLO 17. USIA GUIDANCE BEING SENT SEPTEL. RUSH

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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